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Heber City fights water

Timberline worker Robert Reese made the best of a bad situation. More than once he floated several blocks down Main Street.

His hard work finally got to him, and by Saturday he was admitted to a hospital in Heber City with pneumonia. Many Heber residents like Robert Reese who works at Timberline remained in high spirits in spite of floods that slightly damaged the Main Street store where he works. He said flooding made business bad, and took a little free time to float "Main Street River" from

Timberline to the north end of the downtown area. Some Heber residents sat in lawn chairs and fished. One claimed he landed a trout. Gas station business was bad for Ralph Hilton who owns Hilton Motel and the service station on Main Street. "Not too many people will cross the water and come into the station," he said, noting that he had almost no customers Friday.

Ron Trouble who owns Ron's Fires was also worried that a culvert near his business couldn't handle all the water the Main Street "river" was delivering. Berg sent out an alert and crews brought sandbags to build up the area around the culvert and to build a makeshift waterway through his property that would take the excess water off his property and to a field to the west.



Many men like these two (above) helped sandbag. Charles Wagstaff (above left) used sandbags to stop water from entering her apartment. At one time water surrounded the apartment.

Heber County's Kent Berg, was
 atch County emergency manage-
 ment director.

Last week and at the start of the
 weekend, he had worked long 14
 and 16-hour days often sloshing
 through water as he directed ef-
 forts to control waterways that
 became sometimes out of control.

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 the water and come into the
 station," he said, noting that he
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But he said he was not discouraged.

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Many men like these two (above) helped sandbag. Charlena Wagstaff (above left) used sandbags
 to stop water from entering her apartment. At one time water surrounded the apartment.



Early discussion on tap in Heber for flooding woes

By SONNI SCHWINN
Herald Correspondent

11-13-86

HEBER CITY — Heber Valley officials have been studying and planning permanent flood control measures since last May's runoff crippled Heber City and damaged property. Heber City and Wasatch County are working together in a joint effort to get as much done as possible before the spring 1987 thaw, as Phase I of the city's three-phase program is nearly complete and Wasatch County's eastern debris basin is well on the way to completion.

Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall said, "It's going to save us hundreds of thousands of dollars that we would spend on flood control if we did it on a year to year basis. This project ought to eliminate that. The property owners have been extremely cooperative and helpful. They've been a neat group of people to do business with. They can see the value to their property. They have thanked us and some didn't even want the money (for right-of-ways). The irrigation company is glad to have us dig out, clean up and maintain their channels. We're going to keep them clean. That's in the agreement."

He pointed out that some of the stream beds which are usually dry this time of year have water in them and without the flood control measures Wasatch County could have expected to suffer serious flooding every year.

He said that of three proposals considered, the one adopted is the most effective and the least expensive at \$727,000. One of the alternatives would have cost over \$3 million. The project is being funded by the State Disaster Relief Board and Utah Department of Transportation, with matching funds provided equally by Heber City and Wasatch County, mostly through labor and equipment.

Dale Berg, project engineer, reports Phase I has included install-

ing new water channels east of 1200 East and constructing a new crossing of Lake Creek and Sage Brush Spring Creek Canal. New bridges have been constructed where Lake Creek crosses 6000 East, 3600 East, and 2400 East. A

Wasatch County

new underpass has been installed under Timpanogos Canal, and the diversion structure dividing the north and south channels of Lake Creek has been rebuilt. A new wing wall has been installed at 4800 East and approximately 50 percent of the channels have been cleaned.

Berg said Phase II will include improvements to Wasatch and Humbug canals and reopening of the Center Creek channel between the two canals. He said Phase III is digging a new channel from the highway junction at the north end of Heber to the Provo River.

Wasatch County's retention basin is designed to hold the debris brought down from the mountains during thawing in order to keep the channels across town clear and prevent the water from backing up.

The overall flood prevention program is a cooperative effort between Heber City and Wasatch County.

Another project is also underway which will enhance flood control, although it is not a part of the city-county joint plan. Francis Smith, of Smith Engineering in Heber, has nearly completed a study of Heber streets which will identify those which should be improved to control water more efficiently as it crosses town and recommended priorities for street improvements.



Wasatch County Commission Chairman
Lorin Alfred (left) and Heber City
Mayor Gordon Mendenhall are proud
that their cooperative city-county

flood control project is nearly
complete, as bulldozers dig the last
stretch of the 12-mile, cross valley
channel.



